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## HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday and Wednesday, September 28-29, 2021  
Workforce Training Center, TrainND Northwest 415 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE  
Williston, North Dakota

Representative Mark Sanford, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Members present:** Representatives Mark Sanford, Jay Fisher, LaurieBeth Hager, Karla Rose Hanson, Zachary Ista, Dennis Johnson, Bob Martinson, Gary Paur, Brandy Pyle, David Richter, Mike Schatz, Cynthia Schreiber-Beck; Senators JoNell A. Bakke, Karen K. Krebsbach, Dave Oehlke, Jim P. Roers\*

**Members absent:** Representative Larry Bellew; Senator Robert Erbele

**Others present:** See [Appendix A](#) for additional persons present.

\*Attended remotely on September 29, 2021

**It was moved by Senator Oehlke, seconded by Representative Fisher, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the August 9-10, 2021, meeting be approved as distributed.**

Ms. Paula Hickel, Williston Workforce Manager, Job Service North Dakota, presented information ([Appendix B](#)) regarding Job Service North Dakota and state workforce needs. She indicated the top five industries in the state include health care, office and administration, sales, transportation, and production. She noted the health care industry has the most open jobs both statewide and in the Williston region.

Ms. Lisa A. Johnson, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, North Dakota University System, presented information ([Appendix C](#)) regarding enrollment in University System programs related to the energy industry.

Dr. Bernell Hirning, President, Williston State College, presented information ([Appendix D](#)) regarding an overview of Williston State College.

Ms. Kim Wray, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Williston State College, presented information ([Appendix E](#)) regarding academic programs and certificates offered by the college.

Mr. Kenley Nebeker, Regional Director, TrainND Northwest, presented information ([Appendix F](#)) regarding TrainND Northwest.

In response to a question from a committee member, Mr. Nebeker noted state funding of approximately \$200,000 represented 9 percent of the revenue for TrainND Northwest in the 2019-21 biennium.

Mr. Keith Olson, Regional Director, Small Business Development Center, presented information ([Appendix G](#)) regarding the Small Business Development Center.

Mr. Shawn Wenko, Executive Director, Williston Economic Development, provided comments regarding the Williston economy.

Mr. Hunter Berg, Executive Director, Williston State College Foundation, presented information ([Appendix H](#)) regarding the foundation.

The committee toured Williston State College, including Stevens Hall and the Western Star Career and Technology Center, and TrainND Northwest.

The committee recessed at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, and reconvened at 8:05 a.m. on Wednesday, September 29, 2021.

Dr. Doug Darling, President, Lake Region State College, presented information ([Appendix I](#)) regarding Lake Region State College.

Dr. Mark Hagerott, Chancellor, North Dakota University System, commented regarding the importance of the Dakota Digital Academy.

Mr. Wayne Sick, Director, Department of Career and Technical Education, presented information ([Appendix J](#)) regarding TrainND, including programs offered, companies and individuals served, and revenue generated by the training network. He indicated TrainND revenue decreased from \$4.7 million in fiscal year 2020 to \$3.1 million in fiscal year 2021. He noted that direct training revenue accounted for 64.4 percent and appropriated state funds accounted for 20 percent of total TrainND funding in fiscal year 2021.

Ms. Laurie Weber, Director of Financial Aid, Minot State University, presented information ([Appendix K](#)) regarding the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Ms. Brenda Zastoupil, Director of Financial Aid, North Dakota University System, presented information ([Appendix L](#)) regarding federal student financial assistance received by students enrolled at University System institutions. She noted federal student financial assistance programs include Pell grants, supplemental educational opportunity grants, work study, direct subsidized and unsubsidized student loans, and parent plus loans. She indicated student loans account for 62 percent of all federal student financial assistance disbursed.

Mr. David Krebsbach, Interim Vice Chancellor for Administrative Affairs and Chief Financial Officer, North Dakota University System, presented information ([Appendix M](#)) regarding the university system capital building fund program. He indicated Mayville State University, Minot State University, and Dakota College at Bottineau did not fully utilize Tier I, II, or III of the capital building fund program during the 2019-21 biennium. He noted Dickinson State University and Valley City State University did not fully utilize Tier III of the capital building fund program during the 2019-21 biennium.

Mr. Peter Johnson, Director of Governmental Relations and Public Affairs, University of North Dakota Alumni Association and Foundation, commented in support of the capital building fund program.

No further business appearing, Chairman Sanford adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

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Alex J. Cronquist  
Senior Fiscal Analyst

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